

Read the first and second time, and ordered to be committed to a Committee of the whole House on Monday next.

*To prevent the importation of Certain Persons, whose admission is prohibited by certain laws of the State Governments.*

1     **Be it enacted**, by the Senate and House of Representa-  
2     tives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,  
3     That from and after the passing of this act, no master or captain  
4     of any ship or vessel, or any other person, shall import or bring, or  
5     cause to be imported or brought, any negro, mulatto, or other  
6     person of color into any port of the United States, which port  
7     shall be situated in any state which by law has prohibited the ad-  
8     mission or importation of such negro, mulatto, or other person of  
9     color, under the penalty of                                     dollars for each and

10 every negro, mulatto, or other person of color afore said, imported  
 11 or brought into the United States as afore said, to be sued for and  
 12 recovered in any court of the United States, to the use of any  
 13 person prosecuting for the same, and in any action brought for the  
 14 penalty afore said, the person or persons sued shall be held to  
 15 special bail.

1     SECT. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That no ship or vessel ar-  
 2 riving in any of the said ports of the United States situated as  
 3 afore said, and having on board any negro, mulatto, or other  
 4 person of color, contrary to the meaning and intention of this act,  
 5 or of the laws of the respective states prohibiting the admiffion  
 6 or importation of fuch negro, mulatto, or other person of color,  
 7 shall be admitted to an entry. And if any fuch negro, mulatto,  
 8 or other person of color shall be landed from on board any fuch  
 9 ship or vessel in or near any of the ports afore said, the said ship  
 10 or vessel, together with her tackle, apparel and furniture, shall be  
 11 forfeited to the United States ; one half of the nett proceeds of the  
 12 sales, on fuch forfeiture, to accrue and be paid over to fuch per-  
 13 son or persons on whose information the seizure shall be made.

1     SECT. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty  
 2 of the collectors and other officers of the customs, and all other  
 3 officers of the revenue of the United States in the feveral ports  
 4 situated as afore said, to notice and be governed by the pro-  
 5 visions of the laws of the feveral states prohibiting the admif-

6 sion or importation of any negro, mulatto, or other persons of  
7 color, and they are hereby required and enjoined vigilantly  
8 to carry into effect the said laws of said state, conformably to  
9 the provisions of this act, any law of the United States to the  
10 contrary notwithstanding.